

**AUSTRIAN ARMY IS ENCOUNTERING STIFF RESISTANCE**

Offensive Continues South of Belgrade—Turkish Gunboat Reported Sunk by Mine at Entrance of Dardanelles.

**FIVE SEPARATE BATTLES RAGING IN THE EAST**

Field Marshal von Hindenburg is Struggling Desperately to Maintain Offensive Against Russian Counter Assaults.

BERLIN, Dec. 12.—(By Wireless.)—A dispatch from Vienna says that the Austrian offensive is proceeding to the south of Belgrade, though the Serbians are offering strong resistance. The official German news bureau announced today that Capt. Ringler, commander of the German artillery at Rheims, had reported that he was compelled to fire on the steeples of the cathedral there because it was being used for military observations.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 12.—(Via Berlin and Amsterdam.)—A Turkish gunboat was sunk when it struck a submarine mine at the entrance to the Dardanelles today. It is believed that the mine was placed there by a British ship.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—A dispatch from Valparaiso, Chile, to the Evening News says the German cruiser Dresden is reported to have taken refuge in an inlet on the Patagonian coast.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 12.—Five separate battles are raging in Poland and Galicia where Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who is now in supreme command of all the German and Austrian armies, is struggling desperately against the Russians' counter assaults to maintain the offensive. Enormous losses are marking the German drive toward Warsaw, but the German field marshal holds his present plan of campaign to be of vital importance that all regard for the cost in human life has been lost in the gigantic struggle which is now under way.

For the time being flanking operations have ceased and over the greater part of the long battle front it is now a fight for strategic railways over which the troops and supplies can be moved.

"More men, more men," is the cry which the Germans are constantly sounding in the ears of the Berlin government.

The five zones of action are located on the line which now extends in the form of a vast semicircle. The line, roughly speaking, is as follows:

Southeast of Mlawa; in the Vistula valley north of Lodz; along the Bzura valley southwest of Piotrkow and around Cracow, in Galicia, to which point the Germans are constantly sending such reinforcements as they can spare from the campaign in East Prussia and northern Poland.

The German efforts in Western Poland to roll back the Russians and relieve the ever growing pressure at Cracow, have been checked, the Russian general staff announces, and the Russians are pushing forward fresh troops to follow up their advantage.

Stormy weather, which has brought added hardships to the soldiers has turned the roads into lanes of mud, making it almost impossible to move troops and artillery with any degree of speed except in regions where the railway lines may be utilized. That is why the German army, which advanced southward from Mlawa chose the route of the Mlawa-Nowy Dwor railway.

**Battle Without Result.**

The Russians admit that the battle which is in progress south of Cracow is still without result, but on the other hand they claim that the advance of three of the German armies that were moving in the direction of Warsaw from the north and the west has been definitely checked and the Germans will either have to stop to entrench or fall back. A degree of night fighting hitherto unknown in the Russo-Austro-German field of operations is developing along the line running south from the Vistula through Lodz, and west of Piotrkow. There the Russians had the advantage of getting their heavy artillery to the front before the Germans could bring up their big guns and the Germans tried to offset this advantage by surprise attacks at night, which are still in progress.

Trench life in Poland is working the inevitable result in outbreaks of pneumonia, rheumatism and typhoid fever. There are points along the Bzura valley where troops have been living in wet, muddy trenches for weeks, where the men are caked with the slimy mire of their earthen houses. The only thing clean about them are the rifles.

**SAYS WIFE ABUSED HIM**

William Jones Wants Divorce After Five Months Married.

William C. Jones has petitioned the superior court for a divorce from Garnet Jones whom, he says, he has lived from July 14, 1914, to Dec. 11, 1914. He declares that during that period she used vile and abusive names toward him, that she often refused to cook his meals and that on different occasions she threatened to poison him.

**CLUB WOMEN ORGANIZE TO PLANT TREES ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY**

Representatives from the Progress, Thursday and Broadway clubs and the Coquillard Street Teachers' club met Friday afternoon at the Progress club for the purpose of organizing to forward the arrangements for planting trees along the Lincoln highway when the road is complete. In this the local women are cooperating with the club women of all the other states through which the highway extends. Preliminary plans were made for a large meeting to be held in South Bend some time in January when a speaker will be procured to explain the purpose of the proposed planting. In the meantime the various clubs interested in the movement will spend some little time studying the varieties of trees suitable for the purpose, and methods of proper planting.

The officers of the combined organization who were elected Friday are as follows: Chairman, Mrs. L. S. Fichenscher; vice chairman, Mrs. George Phillips; secretary, Mrs. Ryell T. Miller; assistant secretary, Mrs. Frank M. Jackson; treasurer, Mrs. F. P. Nicely.

**CAMP ELECTS OFFICERS**

Annual Meeting of Spanish War Veterans Held Friday Night.

At the regular bi-monthly meeting of the Harvey O. Perkins camp No. 25, United Spanish War Veterans, held Friday night at the headquarters in Lassalle hall the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Commander, Elmer Rex; senior vice commander, Ward B. Garrett; junior vice commander, William Longnecker; officer of the day, Albert S. Menden; officer of the guard, Oral Mathewson, and trustee, John Suchy. A public installation of these officers will be held on Jan. 8 at Lassalle hall. The next meeting of the camp will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 23.

**ENFORCE NEW SCHEDULE**

Gas and Electric Co. Gets Ruling From Commission.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 12.—The public service commission has authorized the Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Co. to enforce the new schedule of rates which lowers the old schedule to a three cent minimum for large quantities. It becomes effective Jan. 1 and applies to the Hammond and East Chicago district.

F. S. Walters, manager of the Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Co., stated at his offices Saturday that the new schedule of rates affects only electric consumers in Hammond.

**NEWSPAPER PLANT AT GOSHEN BURNS EARLY SATURDAY**

Fire Originating in Basement Threatens Destruction of Entire Building and Equipment. Probable Loss \$50,000.

Special to The News-Times.

GOSHEN, Ind., Dec. 12.—Fire of unknown origin which broke out at 8:15 o'clock Saturday morning and which was still raging late in the forenoon threatened the destruction of the entire plant of the Goshen News-Times Printing Co. and the Book Store of Grant Himes.

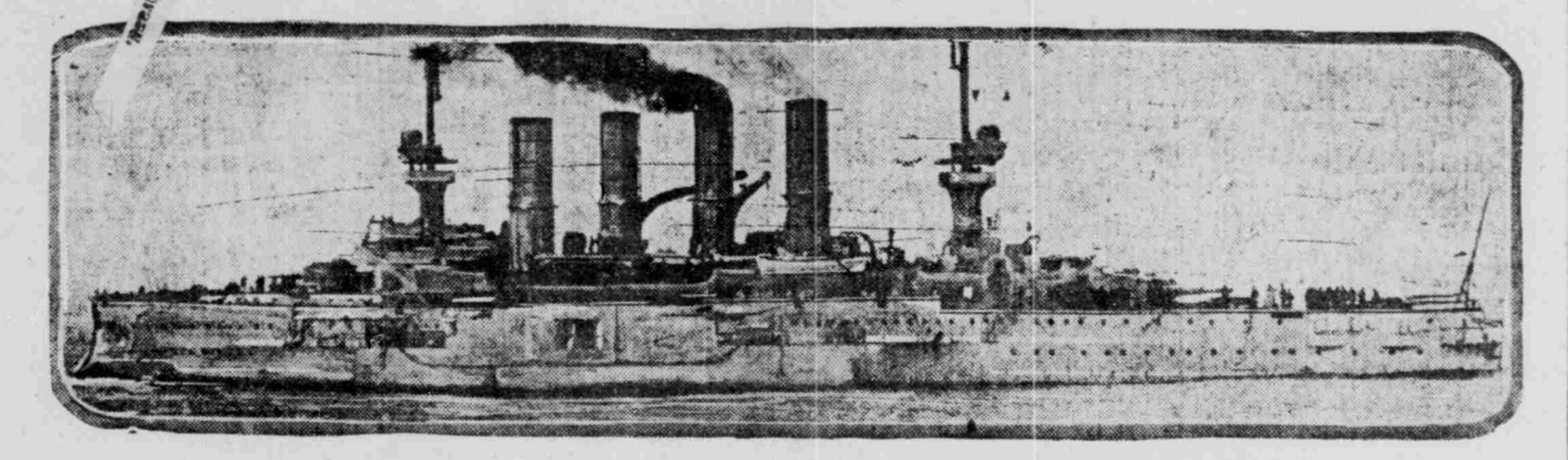
Unless the blaze were controlled, which seemed impossible, the loss caused by the conflagration will total more than \$50,000 partially covered by insurance. The building is a two story and basement brick structure owned by Mrs. George A. Riley. The book store, which also carries a wall paper line, occupied the front of the main floor and the basement. The newspaper occupied the front of the main floor and on the entire second floor. The fire originated in the basement in a large quantity of wall paper. The first intimation of the blaze came when employees noticed smoke arising from the basement.

When the fire department arrived the whole basement was in flames and the entire building filled with dense smoke making it impossible to direct streams of water on the blaze except through two sidewalk windows of the basement. This prevented any material headway against the flames. The plant of the News-Times Co. is estimated to be worth \$40,000. The newspaper had moved into its present quarters in 1909 and at that time installed considerable new equipment. The insurance is \$22,890. The stock of the book store is valued at from \$10,000 to \$12,000 with insurance of \$7,200. The building is insured for \$7,500.

**Fire in Shopping District Causes \$400,000 Loss in Birmingham**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 12.—A disastrous fire visited the downtown shopping district early this morning and before it was subdued \$400,000 damage had been done. The Steel-Smith department store on Second av., between 19th and 20th sts., was completely destroyed. The Alcazar theater on the west side of the department store was crushed by falling walls and damaged by water; the Hann Shoe Co., on the east side of the Steel-Smith store, was heavily damaged by water, while Pleitz department store, the telephone building, Saks' department store, Excelsior bindery and several buildings suffered minor losses from ineffectual blazes started by sparks. The flames were discovered at 12:30 a. m. by John Brewer, an employee of a newspaper club, and had already gained much headway. Within an hour the four-story Steel-Smith store was a mass of smoking ruins. The fire was most spectacular. The store was full of inflammable stock for the Christmas trade and huge pieces of inflammable material were carried for blocks by the wind. In this manner the Southern Bell telephone building, a block away, was set on fire as was Saks' and other buildings a short distance from the Steel-Smith structure. The Steel-Smith Co. employed 250 people, most of them salesgirls. The loss is partially covered by insurance and it was announced this morning that the store will be immediately rebuilt.

**One of the German Cruisers Sunk by British and Scene of Naval Victory of the English**



The Gneisenau, one of the three German cruisers that were lost in the engagement with the British fleet off the Falkland Islands on Dec. 8.

**BRITISH SHOCKED BY LEAKAGE OF NAVAL SECRETS**

Three Attempts by German Submarines to Enter Ports Reveal Spy System and Lord Kitchener Gets Busy.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Three attempts by German submarines to enter British ports within less than a month has convinced the admiralty officers that the "spy system" which has betrayed to German military movements supposed to be known only to high authorities, has also succeeded in learning many naval secrets. The officials believe that the submarines would not have dared to attack ports guarded by mines unless their commanders knew the location of the mines.

A thorough investigation is being conducted to ascertain the manner in which the mine maps came into possession of the enemy. Deeper interest is added to this inquiry by news that on Wednesday morning German submarines made two attacks on the Firth of Forth. A dispatch from Edinburgh reports that two of the German vessels were sunk, but no official announcement to this effect has been issued by the admiralty.

**Raid Shocks Officials.** Naval headquarters maintain the same silence in reference to the Firth of Forth episode as that in reference to the attack on Dover earlier in the week and on Yarmouth some time ago.

This submarine raid at Yarmouth was backed by a squadron of German warships, but practically nothing has been allowed to appear in the papers about it. It certainly gave the admiralty and war office a shock.

When Lord Kitchener was told of the raid at his residence almost before he was out of bed, he gave orders for every official in the war office to remain indoors until he arrived. When the secretary did arrive he had maps of the whole east coast brought before him and spent the morning studying them. No one was allowed to discuss the matter with him. Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, and the two were closeted together for several hours.

Immediately the mouth of every important river was mined, but other precautions of which the public knew were also made. A few nights, the railroads of the Great Eastern system were also placed at the disposal of the government and in one night 30,000 troops were transported from various camps to position which had been selected for them. Further batches are to follow.

**New Guns in Position.** A number of the new big guns just completed at Woolwich and in Scotland have already been placed in position at various points and masked so completely that the existence in the neighborhood. The fact is that were a German force to land on any part of the east coast of Britain it would have small chance of gaining more than a foothold. A thoroughly comprehensive scheme of defense has been worked out by Lord Kitchener.

**LOCAL UNION CHOOSES NEW OFFICERS FRIDAY**

Officers elected for the Stereotypers' and Electrotypes' union, Local No. 81, are as follows: L. Hilliard, president; G. Nicolay, vice president; A. Kogutz, corresponding secretary; H. Miller, sergeant-at-arms. A Kogutz was selected as delegate to the convention of the Labor Forward movement at Indianapolis Dec. 19.

**MAYOR PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO THE PAVING LAWS**

Keller and Department Heads Agree on Set of Regulations Give More Latitude to Localities Proposing Improvement

Several suggested amendments to present state paving laws will be presented at the next session of the Indiana legislature, if plans set afoot by Mayor Keller, City Engineer Moore and other municipal authorities are successful. According to these men the present laws in certain instances are unfavorable to property holders as well as to the cities in which improvements have been started.

In accordance with the wishes of Mayor Keller and other men in the city, the city engineer has drawn up a set of suggestions upon portions of the state laws, which after a consultation between the heads of the various departments of the city will probably be turned over to Charles Hagerty and George Y. Hepler, this county's representatives, and G. R. Summers, senator, for presentation at the 1915 state assembly.

The first portion chosen for criticism was the section wherein is described the materials from which pavements should be constructed. This section sets forth that all pavements in civic improvement shall be made of concrete, brick, asphalt, bitulithic or crossot wooden blocks, all of which shall be laid upon concrete surfaces.

That fact that a concrete base is demanded in all cases excepted to by the men interested in the proposed amendments, who claim that in streets where the traffic is not heavy enough to warrant a concrete base, an injustice is born by the property owners as they are assessed for the cost of construction which they do not need. The ideal law would be one where each and every city would be authorized to construct and improve streets in a manner suitable to local conditions.

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Another amendment asked is one that will more clearly define the powers of a works board in cases where property holders petition for a certain kind of material for pavement of the kinds that are allowed by the law. It is claimed by the local men that the section in question allows the residents too much freedom, in that a good promoter would be able to circulate a petition for his certain class of pavement regardless of its adaptability for the street to be improved.

**Other Sections Criticized.** Other sections of the state law which are criticised are the manner in which contractors receive pay for work done; the permission of grading without other improvement, and the manner in which monthly installments on assessments are paid.

In the latter section the law states that if a property holder pays his assessment by the 10-year installment plan he must pay the interest for the first 10 years regardless of when the full assessment is paid. It is requested that this section be changed so that if the full assessment is paid before the expiration of the 10-year period, interest will stop at the time of payment.

"These suggestions will be thoroughly discussed in meetings to be held in the near future," said Mayor Keller, "before they are turned over to representatives in this district for presentation at the next legislature."



A—Location of German fleet in Pacific off the coast of Chile. They sailed from this spot around Cape Horn, and at point (B) encountered the British fleet, which sunk the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig, and captured two colliers. The Dresden and Nürnberg escaped and are now being pursued.

**LATEST WAR BULLETINS**

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The German cruiser Karlsruhe has been in battle with the British warship Glasgow off the coast of Brazil and has been damaged, but managed to escape, says a dispatch received here today from Rio Janeiro. It is stated at the admiralty that no official report of such a battle has been received, but the news also comes in a message from Buenos Aires, which says that "part of the Karlsruhe's stern was shot away by the Glasgow's six-inch guns."

Attaches of the admiralty expressed full confidence today that the Karlsruhe, as well as the converted cruisers Prinz Eitel Friedrich and Kronprinz Wilhelm, would soon "be accounted for."

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 12.—(Via Berlin and Amsterdam.)—It is officially announced that the Turkish fleet of Thursday bombarded the Russian port of Batoum on the Black sea coast. One hundred Russians in the forts there were killed and a large number wounded. Batoum is a town of about 35,000 inhabitants and is strongly fortified. It was ceded to Russia by Turkey in 1878.

TOKIO, Dec. 12.—A wonderful welcome was accorded by Japanese today to Brig. Gen. Nathaniel W. Barnardiston, commander of the British forces which aided Japan in the capture of Tsing-Tao, upon his arrival here.

ROME, Dec. 12.—Italy has demanded from Turkey an explanation of steps taken by Ottoman officials at Hodeida to arrest the British consul there.

The Turks entered the British consulate and the consul fled to the Italian consulate for refuge. Despite the fact that the Italian flag was flying over it, the Turks forced entrance into the building and carried away the British official.

This action was a violation of Italy's neutrality and the Italian foreign office has pointed this out in its demand for an explanation.

ROME, Dec. 12.—The efforts of Pope Benedict XV. to obtain a truce in the European war during the Christmas season have failed. This was announced at the vatican today in a public document which says that "owing to the opposition of a certain power, efforts to stay hostilities over Christmas have come to naught."

**FRAT MEN WILL HOLD ANNUAL BANQUET SOON**

Fourth Annual Gathering of Pan Hellenic Association to be Some Time During Christmas Week.

Arrangements are being made for the fourth annual banquet of the Pan Hellenic association of South Bend, to be held some time during Christmas week. The association is composed of Greek letter fraternity men residing in South Bend and Mishawaka and there is a membership of 150. The following men have been appointed as a committee on arrangements: Dr. A. B. Messick, Harry Wheelock, Frank Hering, Clyde Haeske, Clarence

Stoult, J. Elmer Peak, Frank Mayrs, Jr., and Herbert D. Warner. It is expected to have at the banquet speakers of wide reputation among fraternity men. The banquet will probably be held either at the Oliver hotel or at the Mishawaka hotel. Contrary to the plans of former years, there will probably be no ball in connection with the affair this year. Last year there was both the banquet and a dance and these were held in the American hall. The first gathering of the association was held at the Oliver hotel and the second at the Mishawaka hotel.

LONDON.—A cigar presented by the Kaiser to Lord Londale was sold for \$72.50 at auction in aid of the local Red Cross hospital. A local firm of butchers bought the weed.

**GERMANS LEAVE WESTERN BANK OF YSER CANAL**

Abandon Positions in Flanders Which Are Then Taken by French—Heavy Howitzer Battery is Destroyed.

**HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT IN WESTERN FLANDERS**

Grenadier and Coldstream Guards, Briton's Famous Regiments, Engaged in Terrific Struggle.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The German troops in Flanders have been compelled to evacuate the west bank of the Yser canal and the allies have occupied the positions abandoned by the foe. This was officially announced here this afternoon. An official statement issued by the war office shows that the French artillery continues to demonstrate its superiority over that of the Germans. One of the German howitzer batteries has been completely destroyed, the official statement says.

The communique follows in full: "The enemy has been compelled to evacuate the western bank of the Yser canal to the north of the house of the ferryman. We are occupying that area."

"In the region of Arras there are artillery conflicts. In the region of Nampcel our batteries have silenced the batteries of the enemy."

"In the region of the Aisne our heavy artillery has silenced the German field artillery. One of their batteries of howitzers has been completely destroyed."

"To the northeast of Valency, in the region of Perthes, and in that of the forest of Gurie there have been artillery duels and some infantry engagements which have turned to our advantage."

**Artillery Less Active.** "On the heights of the Meuse the enemy's artillery has been less active. On the contrary that of our troops has destroyed at Dour-Nouille (to the west of Vignoulles) two of the enemy's batteries, one of heavy caliber, the other used for firing upon aviators."

"In the same region we have blown up a block house between the Meuse and the Moselle there is nothing to report."

"In the Vosges there are artillery duels. In the region of Senones we have strengthened the positions taken the day before."

"Russia.—In the region of Mlawa, the violent attacks of the Germans have been repulsed. The Russians have retaken the offensive against the columns of the enemy withdrawing in disorder."

"In the region to the north of Lodz the sanguinary attacks of the Germans have likewise been repulsed everywhere. In the region of Cracow the Russian offensive continues satisfactorily, despite obstinate resistance."

"Serbia.—The Serbian armies have reached the Kolubara river, have crossed that stream between Valjevo, which they have captured, and the confluence of the Lliga. To the north, they have occupied Lazarevac. The number of prisoners taken in the battle taken in the course of the latest battles has reached the neighborhood of 18,000."

**Hand-to-Hand Fighting.**

"Terrific counter attacks are being made by the Germans in West Flanders to check the efforts of the British and French to push forward on the Roulers road from Ypres. During the past 48 hours there has been furious hand-to-hand fighting in which some of the most famous English troops on the continent figured. Among them were the grenadier guards and the coldstream guards, whose names are traditional in the annals of British military history."

The contest for trenches east of Ypres resulted in heavy losses on both sides and between the line are hundreds of corpses which lie where they fell on Thursday. At various points, all along the line in the northern sphere, heavy night and day bombardments are under way. The cannonade around Armentieres and Arras is incessant and all the towns and villages for miles around are deserted ruins battered by shells.

Along the center the battle continues to show that the French are being siege with both sides living in dug-outs behind their trenches while the opposing artillery struggle for mastery.

**Artillery Fire Grows.** On the heights of the Meuse on the Woivre district and in the Vosges activity is increasing, particularly on the part of the artillery which is kept in action against the enemy's trenches most of the time.

The battle of the Aisne, which subsequently developed into the mighty conflict which is raging over territory of three nations began 12 weeks ago today. In that time the lines of the allies and the Germans have both been shifted but there has not been a break at any point.

From Rheims it is reported that both the French and Germans are employing sapping operations on a large scale, the sappers always being under artillery fire. Between the Argonne and the Meuse and around the forest of La Prete the Germans struggling desperately to retake ground which was captured from them by the French.

The French call the big German shells "saucis pons" because they make a noise like a big saucer pail falling to the ground when they explode.